

Resolution GA16-6c

Proposed Resolution to be adopted at the 16th General Assembly of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

6th November 2019

Title: Expanding the authority of RRO Indonesia to support the delivery of services to Indonesia's independent smallholders to accelerate transformation of norms and inclusiveness.

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Supported by: Yayasan Setara Jambi, Yayasan FORTASBI Indonesia

Background:

Indonesia hosts the most independent smallholders in the world, reaching 3.8 million smallholders. The RSPO has the responsibility to extend the reach of its hand to Indonesia's independent smallholders.

To date, a number of Indonesian independent smallholder groups have been involved in the RSPO and have been RSPO-certified. Up to 2019, about 28 independent smallholder groups have been registered with the RSPO, totaling 4,443 smallholders who are managing a total of 12,240 ha of land. Twenty-four (24) out of these have been certified; the remaining, despite not being certified yet, have expressed their commitment to implementing RSPO's P&C in the near future.

The number will be soaring in the coming years as RSPO's new P&C will be born with the stepwise approach. The RSPO should pay serious attention to this in order to improve its services to its current members as well as future members (i.e. those who will get involved in its certification).

Currently, RSPO's Kuala Lumpur Secretariat is the only one authorised to conduct the LUCA (Land Use Change Analysis), ACOP Report and Palm Trace. Some of this, applies to member to seeking certification. LUCA is one of the requirements for the RaCP, and ACOP is the requirement of member. Which, in this case, are independent smallholders. This has led to:

1. Lack of comprehension on ACOP requirement and submission;
2. Late issuance of the LUCA report; Assessment of Land Use Change (LUCA) and independent smallholders' liability are the responsibility of the RSPO; delay in their implementation will entail delay in the audit and issuance of certificate.
3. Problems with the Palm Trace; nearly all certified groups have had problems with the system.

The issues above are caused by:

1. The centralisation of communication in Kuala Lumpur;
2. Communication bureaucracy – all the communication with the Jakarta-based RRO must be decided by the Kuala Lumpur Secretariat;

3. Language barrier; all the communication is in English, which is not accessible to almost all the group managers;
4. Means of communication (email); the majority of group managers have no emails and only have limited access to the internet;
5. Absence of measurable and time-bound work plans.

Proposed Resolution:

In light of the above, it is important for the RSPO to improve the human resources and service quality by extending the authority of RSPO RRO in Jakarta. We hereby request that:

“The RSPO Indonesia’s authority to be expanded in relation to provision of services for independent smallholders (both current and future members) in Indonesia as a form of manifestation of the values of inclusiveness enshrined in the Smallholders Strategy document”

Potential Benefit/Risk:

The proposal will potentially benefit:

1. The principle of inclusiveness
2. The goals set out in the Smallholders Strategy document
3. The Acceleration of the transformation of sustainability norms
4. RSPO’s performance

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References:

Smallholders Strategy document